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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

Integrated Management Information System project

Sixteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions wishes to draw the attention of the Fifth Committee to an exchange of correspondence concerning the measures that are intended to be taken by the Secretary-General to accelerate and ensure the completion of the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) project, pending a detailed consideration of the sixth progress report on the subject by the General Assembly (A/C.5/48/12/Add.1).

2. These measures would entail the reallocation of resources currently approved for IMIS to activities within IMIS that need to be undertaken urgently but for which funds had not been foreseen. The amount of funds that would be reallocated within IMIS in 1994 is estimated at $1,425,000.

3. In this connection, the letter from the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, detailing the above-mentioned measures, and the letter from the Chairman of the Committee to the Secretary-General relating to the Under-Secretary-General's letter are contained respectively in annexes I and II to the present report.

ANNEX I

Letter dated 24 June 1994 from the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I am providing below details of measures which we intend to take during 1994 in order to speed up and ensure the completion of the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) project. These measures will entail the reallocation of funding currently approved for IMIS to activities that need to be undertaken urgently but for which funds had not been foreseen. These relate to the strengthening of the IMIS team and of the implementation capacity for Releases 3 and 4 to contractual services. The amount of funds that would be reallocated in 1994 is estimated at $1,425,000, including the expected 1994 disbursement of contractors' costs as detailed below.

With regard to the IMIS team, temporary assistance is required for a number of additional functions, as follows:

(i) Four work-months of an implementation coordinator to assist the Chief of the project with all implementation-related activities, in particular for offices away from Headquarters, and to assume responsibility for the coordination of training and security issues, in collaboration with the Office of Human Resources Management and the Electronic Services Division;

(ii) Four work-months of a coordinator for implementation at offices away from Headquarters who will be responsible for all data-related issues for those offices;

(iii) Four work-months of an administrative officer to assist the Chief of the project with all administrative issues, such as contracts with vendors, payments, budget, staffing, procurement and liaison with offices away from Headquarters;

(iv) Four work-months of a payroll coordinator to be responsible for payroll-related development and implementation under the supervision of the coordinator for budget and finance;

(v) Four work-months of a payroll system analyst to assist in all technical issues related to the development and implementation of payroll.

Such assistance is expected to be needed throughout 1995 and beyond. The estimated costs for 1994 amount to $162,900.

Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance (OPPBF)

Ninety-seven work-months of temporary assistance in 1994 to perform the following tasks:

(i) Six work-months of a systems analyst to work in the EDP support services section to replace the Chief of the Section who coordinates implementation-related activities in OPPBF;

(ii) Thirty-one work-months of systems analysts/programmers for reports writing;

(iii) Six work-months of General Service staff to work in the EDP support services section to replace a permanent staff member working on reports specifications;

(iv) Ten work-months of accounts clerks to replace two permanent General Service staff who would be working with the team in charge of rewriting manuals and reviewing workflows in OPPBF;

(v) Six work-months of a technical specialist who would assist the United Nations in managing the system test activities for Release 3;

(vi) Six work-months of a systems accountant who would review the test results and perform additional tests for Release 3;

(vii) Fifteen work-months of programmers to write interfaces between IMIS and other financial systems that will not be replaced by IMIS (tax reimbursement system, budget information system, the United Nations Database Information Centre System (UNDICS), etc.) or for providing data to external sources (banks, insurance companies, etc.);

(viii) Fifteen work-months of accountants to assist the Accounts Division while a number of Professional staff are involved in IMIS-related activities (testing, data verification, data collection, reviews of documentation, etc.);

(ix) Two work-months of an accountant to assist Payroll while a number of staff are involved in IMIS-related activities.

Such assistance will also be required for part of 1995.

The estimated cost for 1994 amounts to $656,500.

Contractual services

Renegotiation of the contract with the contractor is expected to be concluded in 1994 and to result in a net additional requirement of $1 million, including maintenance support, which will not be disbursed before 1995. In addition, the study of the workflow analysis in Geneva will require $450,000 to be disbursed in 1994.

Maintenance costs

Twenty-three work-months of temporary assistance will be required in 1994 for systems programmers to work on the maintenance of existing systems while permanent staff are being trained in the maintenance of IMIS.

Such assistance will be required for part of 1995.

The estimated cost for 1994 amounts to $155,600.

Two Professional posts and five General Service posts (Other level) are required in the Office of Human Resources Management to strengthen the maintenance and users' support team. The estimated costs amount to $200,000 for 1994. The Department is seeking solutions to finance these positions through redeployment of internal resources.

I hope that this information meets the requirements of the Committee and remain at your disposal for further information.

(Signed) Joseph E. CONNOR
Under-Secretary-General for
Administration and Management

ANNEX II

Letter dated 28 June 1994 from the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the Secretary-General

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has received the letter dated 24 June 1994 from the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, regarding the measures which are intended to be taken to accelerate and ensure the completion of the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) project pending a detailed consideration of your sixth progress report on the subject by the General Assembly.

As indicated in the letter, these measures will entail the reallocation of funding currently approved for IMIS to activities that need to be undertaken urgently but for which funds had not been foreseen. The amount of funds that would be reallocated in 1994 is estimated at $1,425,000. In this connection, details of measures which are intended to be taken are provided in the letter.

The Advisory Committee takes note of your proposal, as contained in the letter of the Under-Secretary-General, without prejudice to the recommendations it might make on your sixth progress report on IMIS and will revert to the matter in the context of its examination of that report.

(Signed) C. S. M. MSELLE
Chairman